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E WOOD DUCK IN CALIFORNIA.

By JOSEPH GRINNELL and HAROLD C. BRYANT.

rom the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California.)

ally accepted that the wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) is the all the ducks of the United States. Its near relative, luck of Asia, is its only near competitor for honors, and ancy of coloration is concerned even this species may be place. The wood duck's habit of making special display colors but adds to its ever evident beauty and grace when

ia the wood duck was formerly well distributed through- ountry west of the Sierras. Now it is a rare local resident mento and San Joaquin valleys and westward to the coast, the timber-bordered streams and freshwater sloughs, espe- oak belt. Although permanently resident within the state, appears to a slight extent migratory toward the north in to the south in October. It is rare in southern California a rule favorable conditions are lacking. The southernmost Ramona, San Diego County.

picuous and distinctive is this duck that field marks are hardly even for the uninitiated. The crested head crossed by white ie pure white under parts and the bright metallic colors always ie male. Although lacking the bright coloration of the male, le displays much more color than the females of other species addition can be recognized by a white eyering which extends the eye as a white streak.

l ducks seldom stray away from the secluded, wooded streams oughs which constitute their habitat. "A mossy log in a pond vorite resting place for the ducks, but as you walk through the in spring a pair will often fly from a branch overhead, uttering shrill, plaintive cry as they dart through the trees." (Bailey, book of Birds of the Western United States; Houghton, Mifflin N. Y., 1902, pp. 55-56.)

ie wood duck is to be ranked among the early nesters. Most ducks on the ground, but this species selects hollows in trees which may ither living or dead. Often the nest is built above the water, but etimes at a considerable distance from it. Occasionally the entrance

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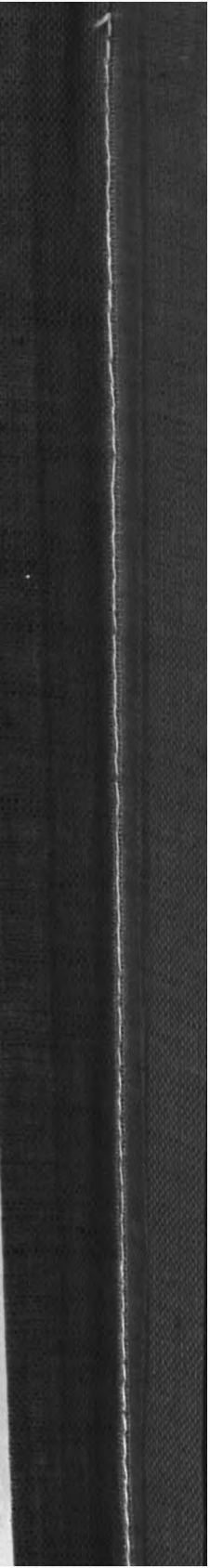

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